

Senator Palmer in a Strange Role.

Senator Palmer's strictures upon the action of the Illinois State Democratic Committee in calling a State convention to consider the money question are, to say the least, peculiar. One would suppose that the State Committee had tried to usurp powers not confided to it and to take snap judgment on the rank and file of the party voters. What it has really done is to ask these voters to express their views in a regular, legitimate and Democratic way on a vital public question.

Why should Senator Palmer or any other Democratic object to this? Who will say that under a democratic form of government the people have not the right to speak for themselves?

Senator Palmer has set the example of plain speaking and he cannot complain if those who differ with him speak as plainly as he does. It is proper to say, therefore, that one of the excellent and sufficient reasons for calling the State convention is that Senator Palmer and other official representatives of the party have been misrepresenting the views of Illinois Democrats on the money question.

Senator Palmer raised no protest when certain "bankers and business men" in Chicago, who favor gold monometallism, arranged for a public banquet and asked President Cleveland to deliver an address advocating their side of the question. He knew perfectly well that this banquet and speech were designed as part of the anti-silver propaganda. He knew that they were intended to convey the impression that Illinois Democrats favor the Administration's financial policy. He knew that that interpretation would be put upon it by the outside world. Yet he raised no voice of protest. Had the banquet been held he would probably have been present and acquiescing in what would have been a fraud on the Democratic party of Illinois and a deception upon the rest of the country.

At any rate Senator Palmer kept silent while this trick was being concocted. He found his voice of protest only when the Executive Committee of the party took the regular and proper course to ascertain what is the real sentiment of the Democrats of Illinois on the issue thus raised.

It is a strange role for Senator Palmer to be playing. It is still stranger to find him threatening to bolt if his party, more consistent than he, holds fast to the good old Democratic doctrine of bimetalism which he has taught them for thirty years.—Post-Dispatch.

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